

June 27, 2013

**National Weather Service Honors Doug Paulsen, for Outstanding Service to Volunteer Cooperative Weather Observer Program**

Recognizing more than 25 years of dedication, NOAA's National Weather Service recently presented Doug Paulsen, Cooperative Observer from 8 miles southwest of Oshkosh, with a longevity of service award.

A 25 Year Length-of-Service Award was presented on June 26<sup>th</sup>, to Doug Paulsen, for his voluntary service in the Cooperative Observer Program. Doug began serving as a Cooperative Weather Observer on June 1<sup>st</sup>, 1988.

Doug has faithfully sent in his reports of daily precipitation, snowfall and snow depth for over 25 years, to the National Weather Service office in North Platte.

The original service date for the site now known as Oshkosh 8 SW – is January 1<sup>st</sup>, in 1909. Weather records have been produced from this site now, for 104 years!

Weather observations actually began at this location, a year before Garden County was formed. Weather historians show Oshkosh 8 SW, as a daily precipitation site for southern Garden County.

This weather station was originally established as the Kowanda station back in December of 1908, with the first report submitted in January 1909. George W. Hulse was the original observer. This is the oldest known weather reporting station in Garden County.

When the Kowanda station was established, it was located in Deuel County – with the post office listed as Kowanda. Once Garden County was established in 1910, the county designation changed to Garden. George Hulse was the observer until April 1914. Frank J. Larcher assumed the observational duties beginning in April 1914.

Doug Paulsen is the 3rd generation family member to take Cooperative Weather Observations. Mr. Jep Paulsen filed his first report back in May of 1926. He served as the observer at this site until he passed away. His son, Charlie (Toots) B. Paulsen became the observer on site on March 17<sup>th</sup>, 1944. This site was reported in the weather records as the Kowanda station, until April 1964. The designation changed to Oshkosh 8 SW in May 1964. Charlie Paulsen passed away on June 10<sup>th</sup>, 1988 – which was when his son, Douglas M. Paulsen began to measure and report the precipitation and snowfall amounts.

“Cooperative observers like Doug Paulsen play an important role establishing a climate record across the country,” said Ryan Knutsvig, Meteorologist-in-Charge of

NOAA's North Platte National Weather Service office. "Meteorologists and other researchers analyze climate data in order to better understand the weather. Information from observers over the last 100 years helps us find relationships among the many variables in the science of weather and climate. These observations have led to improvements in weather forecasts and warnings. We thank Doug for his many years of service to our country."

The National Weather Service's Cooperative Weather Observer Program is a unique partnership between the National Weather Service and citizen volunteers in every U.S. state and territory. The cooperative observer program has given scientists and researchers continuous weather data since the program's inception in 1890. Today, more than 11,000 volunteer observers participate in the nationwide program to provide daily reports on temperature, precipitation and other weather factors such as snow depth, river levels and soil temperature.

Long and continuous records provide an accurate picture of a locale's normal weather, and give climatologists and others a basis for predicting future trends. These data are invaluable for scientists studying floods, droughts and heat and cold waves. At the end of each month, observers mail their records to the National Climatic Data Center for publication in "Climatological Data" or "Hourly Precipitation Data."

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On the Web:

NOAA's National Weather Service, North Platte: <http://www.weather.gov/lbf>